

temperature at which they operate during transportation of said polymers; with the steam being introduced via hydrolysis valves set in the wall of the valve housing or the lines and discharged via emptying apertures, wherein each hydrolysis valve comprises a heated housing, in the form of a guide cylinder, and is provided with a side steam supply line, a valve piston which can be moved in the axial direction in the guide cylinder, a valve block, which, in the closed position, engages into a valve seat which has an elongated opening cone and is set in the wall of the housing of the valve or line to be cleaned, and a valve block headpiece, which, in the closed valve position, terminates flush with the inside surface of the wall of the housing of the valve or line to be cleaned.

A1 Claim 6. Method according to Claim 5, wherein the supplied steam has a pressure of from 1 to 2 bar absolute.

Claim 7. Method according to Claim 5, wherein the amount of steam is an amount which will hydrolyze polymer residue in the lines or valves without cooling them.

Claim 8. Method according to Claim 5, wherein the steam is passed through the valves or lines until the condensate of the steam exiting at the emptying apertures is free from hydrolytic degradation products of the polymer.

Claim 9. Method according to Claim 6, wherein the steam is passed through the valves or lines until the condensate of the steam exiting at the emptying apertures is free from hydrolytic degradation products of the polymer.